

In a recent column recognizing this milestone, long-time host Steve Barnes explained the focus of the program has always been the matters that matter. There is no doubt the discussions featured on this program have encouraged Arkansans to advocate for change, influenced policies and procedures at all levels of government and brought attention to undercovered issues.

Arkansans have had a front-row seat to the evolving political climate of the last four decades as a result of “Arkansas Week.” We have seen a lot of changes and the voices on this show have provided valuable insight. The “Arkansas Week” roundtable panel is a signature segment of the show that has brought together the best and brightest journalists and experts in the State to deliver unique perspectives in a manner that expands on the stories covered in print and allows for a broader discussion beyond the headlines. I have been honored to join this mainstay numerous times and talk with Steve as well as other hosts and guests to contribute to Arkansans’ awareness of the issues and events that directly affect them.

Throughout the years, “Arkansas Week” has brought together people from across the political spectrum to share their thoughts. The program has always fostered an atmosphere where its acceptable to disagree without being disagreeable, a feature truly appreciated by the viewers and guests alike. It is even more important at a time when polarization is too common.

As we celebrate its storied history of delivering information to citizens in all corners of our State, I applaud the dedication of Steve Barnes and the men and women who work tirelessly each week to create “Arkansas Week.” Our State is grateful to all those who have been part of this program over the past four decades on being a reliable, informative source for news.●

RECOGNIZING JILL’S HOMESTEAD

● Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Jill’s Homestead of Chariton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of March 6, 2023.

Jill’s Homestead is an example of the American entrepreneurial spirit at its finest. Before starting her own business, Jill Godby had a longstanding passion for leather crafting, and she had a special knack for creating trendy leather earrings that she often wore herself. Over time, her hobby grew as friends and family wanted their own leather earrings. Prompted by the demand from her family and friends, in 2018 Jill started to list some of her earrings on Facebook; shortly thereafter, interest in her products took off,

and her hobby turned into a side hustle. Given her products’ popularity online, Jill started to sell her earrings at local farmer’s markets and at any trade shows she could find. Eventually, her hobby-turned-side-hustle led her to quit her day job and turn her passion into a small business. However, Jill did not foresee the once-in-a-generation pandemic that was right around the corner. When disaster struck and businesses were forced to close, Jill refused to become discouraged. She doubled down on her products and ideas and worked long nights to grow the business. Today, that hard work has paid off; Jill has been able to scale up the company to employ a small, all-female, workshop crew. Furthermore, she now has her own workshop to make her leather goods on the town square in Chariton.

In a world that emphasizes the mass production of goods, Jill’s Homestead wants to craft products built to last a lifetime. They work to achieve this goal through using high-quality leather, experienced craftswomen, and an online shop to find customers that share their mutual values of sustainability, self-sufficiency, and natural living. Each member of her team of seven craftswomen are dedicated to creating the highest quality product possible. The business primarily sells their products online on their website created through the ecommerce platform Shopify. Additionally, they open their workshop once a month as they pride themselves on providing great customer service and thus want to form and maintain genuine connections with their customers in person. In fact, their commitment to customer relations is what initially grew the company, with Jill hosting weekly auctions on Wednesday nights of her products through Facebook Live. Jill’s Homestead has grown from only selling earrings to now offering luxury handbags, accessories, and home goods inspired by the lifestyle of rural Iowa.

As a small business, Jill’s Homestead recognizes the need to give back to the Chariton community. They are part of the Chariton Area Chamber/Main Street which is committed to revitalizing the community through economic and cultural endeavors. Through the chamber, Jill’s Homestead was able to give a significant donation to the Chariton Downtown Square Sidewalk Project in order to restore the historic town square. Additionally, the small business is very generous in offering their products to be used as prizes for fundraisers. Jill’s Homestead donated close to 10 items for the Hops for Hospice raffle fundraiser; the money raised went to an assistance fund to provide hospice care for those who cannot cover the cost. Additionally, they recently contributed a number of their handbags for the Designer Bag Bingo night fundraiser, the proceeds of which benefit the volunteer services at Lucas County Health Center which provides free and low-cost services to the community.

As a small business that will soon turn 6 years old, Jill’s Homestead has been able to achieve massive success, despite extraordinary challenges. Even after she faced unprecedented challenges at the very start of her business, Jill refused to give up hope and shifted her business to online selling. Through perseverance and grit, Jill grew her business during an uncertain economy, and her hard work has more than paid off. Not only has Jill achieved impressive growth, her business has been featured on Iowa news segments, and Jill was invited to our Nation’s Capital to tell her story and discuss the issues facing women business owners. Since the beginning of their operation, Jill’s Homestead has been motivated to offer the highest quality leather goods to their customers and consistently serve them with “Iowa Nice” customer service. I want to congratulate Jill Godby and the entire team at Jill’s Homestead and commend them for their continued commitment to excellence in their work both locally in Iowa and throughout the world. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING PSC DISTRIBUTION

● Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize PSC Distribution of Iowa City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of February 27, 2023.

The story behind the origin of PSC Distribution is one of hard work and knowing an opportunity when you see one. Jim Nesmith was born and raised in Jasper County in the early 1900s. Wanting to give back to his community, he became the State senator for Jasper County in the 1940s. During this time, he also became a salesman for A.Y. McDonald, a wholesale distributor of plumbing pumps and waterworks based in Des Moines. Both of these jobs exposed him to greater Iowa, outside of his native Jasper County. Jim recognized that there was a great opportunity for growth in Iowa City with the expansion of the University of Iowa, so he decided to take a chance and open his own wholesale plumbing distributorship on May 1, 1951.

For the past 70 years, PSC Distribution has been supplying eastern Iowa residents and businesses with the materials they need to excel in the plumbing industry. Currently under the fourth generation of family ownership, cousins Tom Balmer and Jennie Wunderlich, along with her husband Ben Wunderlich, continue to grow and guide the company with innovation and excellence. In 2010, the PSC plumbing showroom expanded and rebranded into a luxury showroom named Studio

H2O which emphasizes quality customer service and building a relationship of trust with each customer. Today, PSC Distribution prides itself as a family owned and operated wholesale plumbing business services offering everything from heating controls and systems, air conditioning, geothermal systems, to water heaters, plumbing fittings, pipes, valves, and kitchen sinks.

PSC Distribution has always prioritized giving back to their community and employees. They actively support the Ronald McDonald House, the Iowa City Community School District Foundation, Table to Table, the Optimist Service Club, the Rotary Club, and are recognized as one of the original investors in Iowa City Area Development. Additionally, many of its employees have worked there for more than 20 years, with some working there for more than 40 years. Regardless of an employee's tenure at the company, whether it brief or long, PSC Distribution celebrates different work anniversaries by posting a tribute on social media to an employee they appreciate. They also take the time to honor veteran customers and employees with tribute posts thanking them for their service. Furthermore, PSC Distribution hosts community events in their showroom such as pampering nights for women in the industry and builders' and electricians' events to forge a strong community and inspire others to join the industry.

Through never compromising their commitment to being trustworthy, customer-focused, and growth-oriented, PSC Distribution has been able to thrive for decades. It has won a number of awards throughout the years, including the Roots Award in 2011, which was awarded by the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce to highlight their role as an anchor business of the Iowa City area for over 60 years and for exemplifying the importance of successful relationships between small businesses and the communities they serve. They also won the National Single-branch ICP Distributor of the Year in 2012, awarded by International Comfort Products, a leading manufacturer of HVAC equipment. In 2022, Studio H2O was honored to be named the 2022 Showroom of the Year by Wholesaler Magazine, an industry magazine which reaches 100,000 professional engineers, distributors, and contractors. It gives me great joy to see this family business receive their rightful recognition from industry experts and from their community at large. I want to congratulate the entire team at PSC Distribution for their continued commitment to loyally serving the needs of Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK L. RIVES

● Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible legal professional and public serv-

ant—Jack L. Rives, who is stepping down from his position as executive director of the American Bar Association after almost 13 years. While Jack's strategic vision and caring leadership will be missed, he leaves behind a legacy of exceptional public service and commitment to protecting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.

The ABA is the largest voluntary association of lawyers and legal professionals in the world. Jack began his service as its executive director on Law Day—May 1—2010. He has been responsible for developing and implementing the association's strategic goals and programs and policy initiatives adopted by the ABA's board of governors and house of delegates.

Jack has also overseen the ABA's more than 1,050 talented employees working at its headquarters in Illinois, at its Washington, DC, office, and at program sites in California, Texas, and about 60 countries throughout the world. During the pandemic, he took great care of the ABA staff by strategically managing the challenges associated with moving to a fully remote environment and then back into the various offices with a hybrid workforce, all while maintaining high employee morale and avoiding any pandemic-related layoffs.

During Jack's tenure, the ABA has significantly expanded its domestic and international grant programs, thereby also expanding the incredible impact they have in helping people and justice systems globally.

For example, the ABA's Free Legal Answers platform—launched in 2016 as the first and only national pro bono legal advice portal—has now expanded to 41 jurisdictions, with over 11,000 pro bono attorneys registered to respond to the more than 250,000 civil legal questions posted by low-income Americans, especially in the wake of recent crises caused by the pandemic, natural disasters, and rising inflation.

ABA leaders, members, and State bar colleagues meet with their elected officials in Washington, DC, at least annually to advocate for important issues like funding the Legal Services Corporation, enhancing the judicial security for our Federal judges, and preserving the public service loan forgiveness program—a critical program that inspires lawyers to work in eligible public service positions for at least 10 years, often in rural communities, so more Americans have access to the legal help they need, where they need it—especially during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when so many faced unexpected challenges.

In the international arena, Jack helped reorganize the ABA's primary international development, human rights, and United Nations entities into one cohesive Center for Global Programs. Under his leadership, the Center has grown its international portfolio to encompass more than 100 democracy, human rights, and governance programs in 60 countries. It has

also significantly expanded its impact through high-profile programs like Justice Defenders and Trial Watch, a partnership with the George and Amal Clooney Foundation that focuses on monitoring trials of at-risk human rights defenders.

Jack is a role model for legal professionals at all stages of their professional careers, always making time to meet with the many lawyers, law students, and interns who seek his advice. The ABA President recognized Jack's dedication and impact recently by saying that upon his departure, Jack will leave the ABA positioned to provide unparalleled service to lawyers worldwide and to advance the rule of law in the U.S. and globally. Jack's staff tell me they will miss his caring leadership and support, as well as his frequent communications on what was happening in the organization, his accessibility, and his willingness to answer all questions. I am not surprised by the amazing impact Jack has had at the ABA because I had the privilege to serve with him in the U.S. Air Force for decades, and I saw firsthand the extraordinary leadership, management, and people skills he had at the most senior levels of the military.

Jack was born in Georgia and received both his bachelor of arts in political science and his law degree from the University of Georgia. To this day, he remains a loyal and avid fan of his Georgia Bulldogs. Following graduation from law school, Jack began his 33-year career in the Air Force as a judge advocate. He served as the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force, the senior U.S. Air Force attorney, and was the first military attorney to attain the three-star rank of lieutenant general. Jack led about 4,600 military and civilian lawyers and legal professionals worldwide. Among his many military awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal with oakleaf cluster and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

The American Bar Association and our entire Nation have been lucky to have had a champion for the rule of law like Jack Rives. He has not only been successful throughout his impressive career, but also has had a significant impact on people's lives, many of whom he will never meet. I feel fortunate to have crossed paths with Jack over the decades, both in his civilian and military leadership roles, and I wish him and his wife Marie both happiness and success in this next chapter of their lives. I also thank Jack for his years of service and his selfless commitment to improving the rule of law and our profession.●

REMEMBERING DAN CAMILLIERE

● Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Dan Camilliere, who passed away earlier this year. Dan was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, pharmacist, State senator, and mayor who spent his